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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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Vacant space in buffer zone of stormwater drain to get 850 m cycling track, walkway on either side in HRBR Layout

DRAIN ON YOUR PARADE

Mini-version of K-100 project to cost Rs 19 crore

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even as the original K-100 project is yet to take off, plans are afoot to have a mini version of the initiative. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is piloting a mini-version of the K-100 project within HRBR Layout at a cost of Rs 19 crore.

The plan is to use the vacant space within the buffer zone of the stormwater drain along the 8th Main Road, HRBR Layout, 1st Block. The Palike will create 850 m of cycling track and walkway on either side of the drain.

The project is based on a proposal by architects under the Urban Revamp Design Challenge hosted by DULT and Sensing Local in 2022. Proposals were invited for Banaswadi and Doddanekundi: 40 ideas came up. Of these, 10 were shortlisted. At the time of introducing the challenge, it was announced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

> There will be a cobblestoned parking space... there is a proposal for an OFC duct
> — BBMP engineer

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Bengaluru lit fest

Get ready for the 12th edition of the Bengaluru Literature Festival, as it is all set to happen next month. The two-day event will feature various authors and speakers, including Abdullah Khan, Aditi Mathur Kumar, Anita Nair, Anjum Hasan, Anuja Chauhan, Balli Kaur Jaiswal, Durjoy Datta, Gautam Bhatia, Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, Janice Pariat, Kalpana Raina, and more.
Where: The Lalit Ashok
When: December 2 and 3; 9 am; For registration, visit: www.bangaloreliteraturefestival.org

02 AI musical

G Don't miss the chance to attend the OnePlus AI Music Festival, a multi-genre musical event for its ever-growing Indian community. The festival is a celebration of creativity, technology, and the vibrant spirit of this community. It enables enthusiasts to compose and blend genres using AI technologies. You can head to Paytm Insider to get your tickets. **W Where: Manpho Convention Centre; When: December 17**

03 Pretty pots

After a break of six years, Bengaluru Studio Potters Market returns to showcase the incredible talents of 36 artists from various places in India. You can get your hands on some of the unique creations. It's a wonderful opportunity for art enthusiasts, collectors, and the general public to connect with these creators. **Where: Chitrakala Parishath**
When: December 8 to 10; 10:30 am–7 pm

BM HEALTH

Going viral, but don't worry, just take care

Docs say that there is no cause for concern despite surge in pneumonia cases in China; emphasise measures against viral infections among kids

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Doctors have reported an increase in the number of viral infections in children, which was much higher than seen previously prior to covid

With rising pneumonia cases in China making news across the world, experts in the city say that there is nothing to worry about as of now, even though they advised precautions while observing the trend that many city hospitals are getting filled up with children getting admitted for viral infections.

Amidst growing concerns in northern China over a surge in children exhibiting symptoms of high fever, cough, and cold, Dr Sujatha Thyagarajan, Clinical Lead of Paediatrics and PICU, and Dr Sangeeta Budur, PICU consultant at Aster RV Hospital JP Nagar, conducted a comprehensive study of covid-19 illness profiles admitted to the hospital. They noted the evolving nature of the pandemic's impact on children.

Dr Sujatha said, "The first wave of covid was predominantly mild, with minimal child involvement. The second wave brought respiratory symptoms and MIS-C, while the third wave saw neurological symptoms, albeit mild. The post-restriction winter witnessed a rise in viral infections, leading to an increase in PICU admissions."

Meanwhile, Dr Sujatha and Dr Sinchana (a PICU consultant at Aster RV Hospital) reported an increase in the number of viral infections in children, which was much higher than seen previously prior to covid. There were variable patterns of viral infection peaks such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) among young infants during August–September, influenza (H1N1 and H3N2) during September–March, and adenovirus and rhino-enterovirus during the January–March months of the year that required PICU admissions. There was a huge surge in the out-patients department as well across the city, with very high school absences. This winter, there has been a huge influenza vaccine drive among children.

Also, though seasonal trends of viruses have been present similar to last year, the numbers have been lower compared to last year. It is likely that children are developing natural immunity due to cross-exposure.

Hence, experts anticipate that this scare may not affect the children in the Indian setup unless there is a new 'covert' spread of the virus occurring across the world.

Dr Anjali R Nath (consultant pulmonologist at Sparsh Hospital) stressed the need for proactive measures in India. She said, "Various factors, including viral mutations or environmental conditions, could contribute to the new pneumonia outbreak in China. Proactive measures such as surveillance, vaccination, and public health campaigns are essential. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural areas, can improve early detection and treatment."

> **"A nutritious diet, monitoring air quality, vaccination, and teaching children hygiene practices are crucial** – Dr R Kishore, neonatologist and paediatrician

Furthermore, Dr Sachin Kumar (Senior Consultant in Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine at Sakra World Hospital) said, "The recent outbreak impacting school children may not be a result of China's strict covid policies but could be attributed to a new virus or a mutation in an existing respiratory virus. Preventive measures, including hand hygiene, influenza vaccinations, and face coverings, should be prioritised."

Preventive measures

Prof Dr R Kishore Kumar, neonatologist and paediatrician at Cloudnine Group of Hospitals, stressed the importance of preventive measures during the winter months. He advised, "A nutritious diet, monitoring air quality, vaccination, and teaching kids hygiene practices are crucial. Annual flu vaccinations, limiting exposure to large crowds, and promoting a healthy lifestyle can reduce the risk of respiratory infections. Parents should ensure their child is up-to-date on vaccinations."

VK Street Sambhrama: Today's the day!

It is a day not to be missed, as November 26 promises a new beginning as the residents get a chance to reclaim their streets, thanks to the VK Street Sambhrama organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror. You will also get a chance to meet your favourite celebrities, who will be there to eagerly participate. VK Street Sambhrama has been scheduled for today to ensure people from all walks of life can participate. The festivities will commence at 8 am and will include customised programmes suitable for all age groups. The event will conclude at noon. This programme is also supported by the BBMP, the police, and many other organisations. The best part is that entry to the programme is completely free, so don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity. The Street Sambhrama provides a unique opportunity for residents to take part in many games and events like dance fitness programme, fitness awareness programme, yogasana introduction, traditional games like kunte bille, lagore, buguri, caricature, health programme, lemon and spoon race, and more. Food shops will also be available for the attendees. **— Prakash VL**

VK Street Sambhrama
Venue: 60 Feet Road, Sahakar Nagar; **Date and time:** November 26, between 8 am and 12 pm

No excuses: Traffic police get tough

Traffic police initiate intensive campaign in southern division to curb traffic violations

File photo of traffic police slapping fines on traffic violators

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Traffic police in the south division have started a rigorous drive against traffic violations. According to the police, from November 18 to November 24, in less than a week, they booked 533 cases for no entry, 43 cases for footpath parking, 58 cases for footpath riding, 26 cases for obstruction traffic, and 8 cases for demanding excess fare and refusing to go.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (traffic), South, Shiva Prakash Devaraju, told BM that the police are selecting one day for one violation drive. For example, the police did a special drive against persons driving one way on Friday, and similarly, they are going to do a drive against illegal parking on Monday.

"We have conducted the drive to make sure that people who are violating the rules are penalised. We have identified areas on a priority basis where the accident rate is higher and where there is more congestion. The drive will continue in the future; every week we are taking up specific issues in specific areas," said DCP Devaraju.

Some areas in the division are seeing more violations as compared to others. According to the data provided by the traffic police, in these six days, places like Banashankari, Thalaghattapura, and Jayanagar have had more violations compared to Madiwala or Mico Layout.

> **Such initiatives may help the police force streamline their everyday functioning and serve as a warning to violators**
>
> –Sanjeeta, a resident

Jayanagara and Banashankari recorded the highest number of parking violation cases. Both recorded 15 cases of footpath riding, followed by Hulimavu, which recorded 11.

Similarly, Thalagattapura recorded the highest number of no-entry cases. Thalaghattapura saw 105 recorded violations for no entry cases, followed by Bhanshankari, which recorded 78 cases.

BM talked to commuters to ask their opinion on the special drives, and some said that the drives will induce fear among violators, while others opined that traffic police are doing the job of civic agencies by clearing parking.

"Such initiatives may help the police force streamline their everyday functioning and serve as a warning to violators. Some sort of fear among the violators is important; nobody wants to pay extra money. The effectiveness of this system can only be known through monitoring and data. Ideally, the traffic police should always adopt a systemic approach to curbing violations of all types. This can also include awareness initiatives to sensitise road users," said Sanjeeta, a resident.

Meanwhile, another resident, Vajapeyam Srivatsa, said that it is the job of the civic agency to ensure that there are no parking violations, and the traffic police should only be responsible to impose fines on the violators and not for curbing illegal parking. "It is good that they are doing special drives, and they should also find a permanent solution on how such violations can be curbed. The police should also ensure the use of technology," he added.

Five held in sex identification case

Five more members of the group that was identifying the sex of foetuses and aborting female foetuses were taken into custody by the Baiyappanahalli Police. Two of the five people arrested were helping the group, and three of them were doctors. The police detained Dr Tulasi Ram, a physician practising in Chennai; Dr Chandan Ballal, the proprietor of Mysuru Matha Hospital; Ballal's spouse, Meena; Rizma, the hospital receptionist; and lab technician Nissar.

In October, the police made four arrests in relation to the sex determination test. Earlier, Siddesh, Nayan Kumar, Veeresh, and Shivalingegowda were taken into custody. It has been stated that they recognised expectant mothers and brought them to Mandya for foetal sex determination through scanning. An investigation has been started by the police to find the remaining nexus members. –BMB

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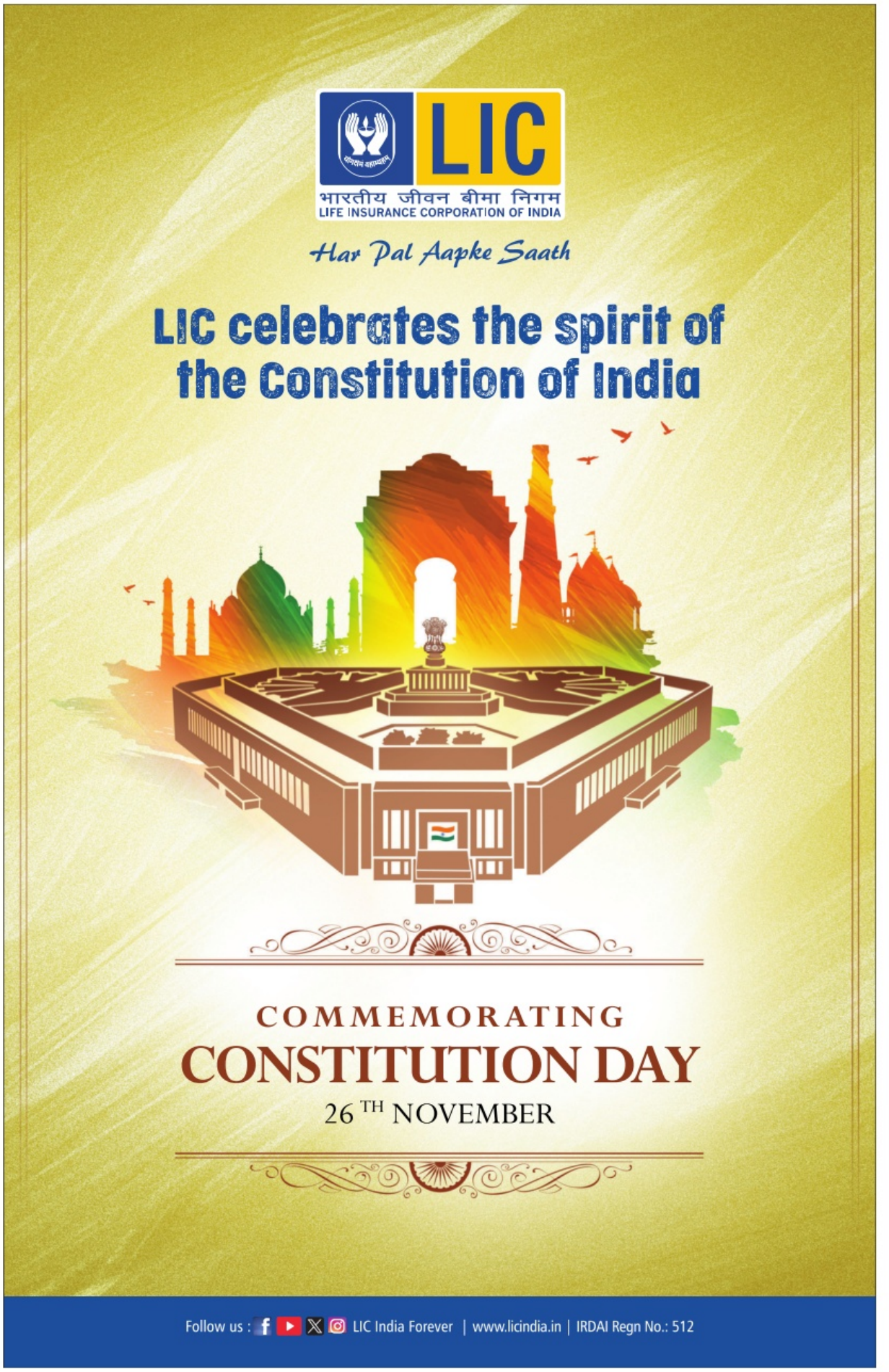
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Rural Bengaluru grapples with stale tanker water

Researchers discover high levels of contamination in rural Bengaluru's tanker water

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Researchers stress the need for awareness and water treatment to ensure safe consumption

Water being supplied through tankers to a rural area in Bengaluru contains high bacterial contamination, rendering the water unfit for direct consumption. A water quality analysis of tanker water samples in the Kudlu area for 18 months showed a remarkable difference in the water quality between the tankers and the purified water sample. The water quality index (WQI) was found to be less than 50 for the purified water for almost all the months tested. However, it was more than 100 for most of the period for the tanker water. Microbiological contamination with E. coli was also observed in the tanker water samples.

"High levels of calcium, magnesium, and total hardness were noted in all the tanker water samples. A remarkable difference was observed between the water quality of the tankers compared to the purified water sample. The water quality index was found to be less than 50 (excellent as per WQI classification) for the purified water. However, it was more than 100 for most of the period for the tanker water, which was contaminated with E.coli," noted the analysis conducted by researchers from a private university in Andhra Pradesh.

Researchers highlighted that although the tanker water quality was found to be poor as per the WQI classification and not at all suitable for direct consumption, there was a lack of awareness among locals about the importance of treating this water before use.

"The result of the survey conducted to understand the awareness level of dangers of water contamination and the importance of water treatment showed that the majority of the population was not aware of the importance of treating water before usage. Hence, the quality of water supplied by tankers was essential to be studied," said the researchers.

> **"The result of the survey conducted to understand the awareness level of dangers of water contamination and the importance of water treatment showed that the majority of the population was not aware of the importance of treating water before usage**
>
> – Researchers of a private university in Andhra Pradesh

The analysis was conducted to assess the health risks of contaminants present in the tanker water supplied in the rural area. Researchers underlined that the residents in the area should be made aware of the dangers of consuming water without treatment by conducting health camps and awareness programs by the authorities concerned. Locals should be advised to boil or filter the tanker water before consumption.

Along the stormwater drain...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that the winning design entries would be implemented by BBMP after review. One of the winning entries for the Banaswadi area titled '1 mile' is being implemented by BBMP. "Residents have been constantly complaining of overgrown bushes around stormwater drains, misuse of the space and feeling unsafe. Now, we have come up with a beautification proposal to solve the issues. Apart from the asphalting of the road, we are talking about some repair work on the retaining wall of the stormwater drain. The stormwater drain lies in the middle of two roads.

Bangalore Mirror
Did you know urban revamp design challenge is interested in your vision for Bengaluru?
SPACE ODDITY
How to nurture an inclusive city

BM had reported on November 14, 2021, about similar plans for Doddanekundi

The area used to constantly get flooded and residents used to complain about it. To reduce the burden, we are building new drains to connect to the main drain at the service road. Around the stormwater, we will create a circuit cycling and walking path along the 850 m-long drain. We are also thinking of installing benches but residents are opposing it stating its misuse. There will also be a cobblestoned parking space towards the housing side of the SWD buffer zone. This space will be allocated for parking vehicles free of charge. We will also be replacing the existing 850-m water and sewer line and connecting it to the main line. There is also a proposal for the construction of an OFC duct," said a BBMP engineer. They further clarified that no trees will be cut for the project as the goal is to redevelop spaces while retaining the existing ecosystem. The project akin to K-100 that aims to utilise spaces around SWDs is being implemented under Government of Karnataka grants.

However lake activists BM spoke to said the area around SWDs is used to dump silt during desilting. "We welcome the move but with caution. This should not turn into garbage dumping areas. BBMP should make sure removal of all encroachments and not allow further encroachments. This could lead to flooding too. During desilting, usually, the silt is dumped in the buffer zone and usually lies there for upto three months. BBMP should remove silt immediately to prevent any mishaps due to people using walkways or cycle tracks. Additionally, the parking provided should be paid and should not encourage buildings without parking spaces," said Ram Prasad, lake activist.

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Perilous parking

Nandini Layout

Dangerous accidents are waiting to happen due to the illegal parking of commercial vehicles at the road junction on 25th Main Road, BHEL Colony, Nandini Layout. This issue persists despite reporting it to the Traffic Police.

Garbage chaos

Sankey Road

Garbage trucks are operating inside city limits during peak-hour traffic on Sankey Road.

Danger crater

Race Course Road

A crater has opened up right in front of Shakti Bhavan (Karnataka Power Corporation), posing a danger to vehicles, especially two-wheelers.

Slum clearance sparks property tax surge proposal

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If the Karnataka government accepts the recommendations from the Administrative Reforms Commission, citizens might face an additional cess in their property taxes to address slum clearance in the city. The commission's report, submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, proposed various measures, including the clearance of slums, which could necessitate increased contributions from taxpayers.

The report highlighted the long-standing collection of Slum Improvement Cess by urban local bodies since 1994. However, it emphasised that the current rates, presented as fixed figures, appear insufficient in comparison to the fund requirements for slum development. Consequently, the commission recommended that the Housing Department propose an amendment to the Karnataka Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1973. This amendment aims to introduce a provision akin to Section 30 of the Karnataka Public Libraries Act 1965, enabling the collection of Slum Improvement Cess as a percentage of property tax and other levies by urban local bodies.

Meanwhile, among other recommendations, the commission said that the forest department must respond quickly in giving compensation to victims of man-animal conflict. "To expedite ex-gratia payments and maintain better relations with the public, the commission recommends raising the annual limit for the sanction of ex-gratia to Rs 5 lakh per year

for Assistant Conservator of Forests. The Range Forest Officers (RFO) should also be delegated powers to sanction ex-gratia up to Rs 15,000 in each case, subject to a maximum of Rs 2 lakh in a year. RFOs can be given the authority to issue the Official Memorandum sanctioning the ex-gratia. Village Forest Committees (VFC) have funds lying unused for many years, possibly due to the cumbersome procedure for getting approval for utilising the funds," the report stated.

The commission proposed that the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) take over the approval of the 10-year management plan of VFCs, replacing the Chief CF/CF. Once approved by the DCF, the Annual Plan of Operations should be overseen by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), and estimates, tenders, work orders, and bill payments delegated to the Range Forest Officer (RFO).

Regarding the backlog of forest violation cases, the report noted nearly a lakh pending cases, leading to delayed justice and allowing repeat offenders to escape. As a deterrent, the commission recommended enhancing the power of compounding offences. It suggested amending Section 79 of the Karnataka Forest Act to empower the Deputy RFO to compound offences, increasing the compounding limit from Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakhs. Higher rates for compounding second and third-time offences were also proposed.

The report emphasised the need for a unified portal, developed by the E-Governance department for each department, streamlining professional fee bill submissions by government advocates/panel lawyers. The commission suggested monthly clearance of professional fee invoices and direct disbursement into lawyers' designated bank accounts, promoting efficiency and transparency.

The commission also recommends reducing minimum acreage for private industrial parks.

Voice of concern over IISc campus' dwindling green

Ex-student pens letter to Tata Trust as lush legacy of city's academic haven fades

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File photo of an Open Day organised at IISc campus

Worried about the fast-depleting green cover on the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus, a city-based environmentalist has now reached out to the nominees of Tata Trust, requesting the trustees to look into the matter.

In three separate letters written to the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretaries and chief financial officers of Sri Ratan Tata Trust and Sri Dorabji Tata Trust, the environmentalist has expressed deep concern about the loss of tree cover on the premises.

"I felt compelled to write to the trustees as I am an ex-student of the Institute, apart from being an ex-Tata employee. This decision came after I filed multiple RTIs in my attempt to obtain information from IISc regarding the loss of tree cover. However, I received sketchy replies with no details. For Bangaloreans, IISc has been a role model for maintaining its green cover. It is painful to see the city's lung space deteriorating with a lack of transparency," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust. He also added that the Tata Group trustees have not taken any steps so far. The letters were written in September.

In response to an RTI application filed in April regarding a huge area on the campus cordoned off by solid metal fencing, the public information officer of the institute stated that while a UG complex is scheduled to be constructed in the fenced area, no trees are planned to be cut for the project.

> **"For Bangaloreans, IISc has been a role model for maintaining its green cover. It is painful to see the city's lung space deteriorating**
>
> –Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust

Another RTI was filed in July this year regarding information on plans to construct new buildings and the renovation/modification of existing buildings on the campus. Information regarding copies of permission received from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) or other concerned authorities for the construction/renovation of buildings was also sought. IISc authorities responded to the RTI application, stating that while there are plans to construct new buildings on the campus, copies of permission for the construction/renovation of buildings or cutting/trimming of trees on campus are not available.

However, reliable sources from the IISc campus allege that nearly 30% of the campus area has now been cordoned off and barricaded using thick metal sheets to facilitate construction activities and tree-cutting.

"At least 30-40 per cent of the campus area is currently fenced using huge solid metal sheets. These areas with added layers of mesh are inaccessible to faculties and students. The gates of these barricades are always under lock and key and nothing is visible from the outside. The claims made by the Public Information Officer (PIO) stating that trees are not being cut are false," said a source.

Interestingly, a land cover analysis of the campus, conducted by an internal team of researchers a couple of months ago, showed that between 1999 and 2023, the campus had lost nearly 13 hectares of tree cover, amounting to the cutting down of 1,588 trees. The land cover dynamic assessment, done to evaluate the damage the campus has sustained, showed that the green cover during this period has given way to various development activities.

"The situation has deteriorated further. Metal sheets are being used to cordon off spaces, and trees inside these areas are being felled during night hours and cleared. The campus area towards Kendriya Vidyalaya is completely covered and under construction. The area near the Gymkhana is also being redone. Big residential apartment buildings and other structures for additional centres funded through corporate grants are coming up. Additionally, a post-doctoral block is being constructed near the Ramaiah Hospital gate," reported another reliable source from the campus.

BMTC adds 30 metro feeders

BMTC enhances Bengaluru's metro connectivity, introducing 30 new feeders to improve last-mile access. The expansion aims to serve more metro commuters, with BMTC scheduling an additional 1,874 trips and 121 schedules.

Newly launched metro feeders cover vital routes such as KR Puram to Central Silk Board, Kadugodi to Marathahalli, Madiwala to Old Baiyappanahalli, and many more. The initiative strategically links major metro stations like Vijayanagara to Banashankari TTMC, Jalahalli to BEL Circle, and Kengeri TTMC to Thalaghattpura.

This comprehensive effort addresses the city's growing need for efficient and accessible public transportation, providing commuters with a broader and integrated network for seamless travel.

–BMB

Silt spill delays traffic in Nagawara

The Hennur Police Station has filed an FIR against vehicle owners for spilling silt on the Nagawara flyover, causing significant traffic jams. Traffic officials had to take measures to clear the silt to ensure the smooth passage of vehicles.

On November 23, at around 4:30 pm, large quantities of silt were deposited along the Nagawara flyover, resulting in severe traffic congestion. Traffic officials utilised tractors to clear the silt, identifying and taking action against the responsible party. An FIR has been registered against the driver, and the vehicle has been seized. According to traffic officials, the lorry transporting the silt accidentally spilt it on the flyover.

–BMB

THE SUNDAY READ

Horns of a dilemma

What happened on day 1 of Kambala event in Bengaluru

| Garima.Prasher
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Racers thrash the buffaloes to make them run faster on day 1 of the Kambala, held at Bengaluru's Palace Grounds, on Saturday; thousands of visitors saw the event

Even as Bengaluru hosted its first-ever Kambala on Saturday, debate around animal cruelty continued to rage on day one of the event.

A pair of buffaloes held together with a plank near the neck, controlling rope in the hands of a farmer, and both buffaloes sprinting on a 155-metre slush track, in what appears to be a desperate attempt to break free. Activists highlighted that the animals were whacked with sticks as they were taken to the race's starting point, their nose ropes pulled in some cases, and they were hit throughout the race. Many were slapped with bare hands and a few animals were seen licking their nostrils, before and after the run, a sign of stress, according to animal activists.

Incidents of reluctant buffaloes falling on the ground trying to break free were also seen. While a buffalo was seen dropping to the ground at the start, the animal was whacked with sticks to force it back on its feet.

Activists said buffaloes are physiologically ill-suited to racing and it goes against their instinct.

"All forms of cruelty like beating, kicking, poking with sticks, and pulling nose ropes violently are employed to force them to run. Several of these practices violate the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, which had also led to Kambala being banned in the past. We urge people, particularly celebrities, to show restraint and realise that associating with practices such as Kambala directly leads to associating with animal cruelty," said Bharati Ramachandran, CEO, Federation of Indian Animals Protection Organisations (FIAPO).

Animal welfare activists also highlighted that the event does not meet mandatory legal criteria and does not fall within the exception created by the Karnataka Amendment Act.

According to a representative of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), it violates a Supreme Court judgment of 2016, along with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 2017, (the "Karnataka Amendment Act"), and the notification dated November 14, 2017, issued by the state government, which prescribes the conditions under which Kambala can be organised. "The Karnataka Amendment Act defines Kambala as the traditional sports event involving buffaloes (male) race normally held as a part of tradition and culture in the state on such days and places, as may be notified by the state government. It is only traditional events that are exempted from the provisions of the PCA Act. However, the ongoing event does not meet the above mandatory legal criteria and does not fall within the exception created by the Karnataka Amendment Act. The event has been specific to agricultural communities and confined to specific geographical regions. Bengaluru is a metropolitan hub and thus this event is purely commercial," said Harshil Maheshwari of PETA.

> **The event has been specific to agricultural communities and confined to specific geographical regions. Bengaluru is a metropolitan hub and thus this event is purely commercial**
> –Harshil Maheshwari, PETA

Traffic congestion

Commuters using Bellary Road, Jaymahal Road, and other stretches around Palace Grounds experienced traffic congestion on Saturday due to the event. "There was a lot of traffic near the exit gate of the palace grounds. Normally the stretch is relatively free during non-traffic hours. However, we were stuck for some time in the afternoon hours of Saturday," said a commuter. According to Bengaluru Traffic Police, while no major traffic issues were noticed during the day, peak-hour traffic snarl was reported near Hebbal towards Mehkri Circle. Bumper-to-bumper traffic with vehicle moving at slow speeds was reported.

Where to park

To ensure a smooth flow of traffic, Bengaluru Traffic Police has made arrangements for entry to the venue and parking. Parking has been provided at Krishna Vihar (Gate No-1) and Tripuravasini (Gate No-2). Those who are coming CBD area are also advised to take a U-turn at Mekhri Circle and enter via Gate No-1. Those who are coming from Hebbal via Mekhri Circle shall enter Gate No-1, and vehicles coming from Yashwanthpura shall take a right at Circle Mekhri Circle and enter the venue. Those using cab services shall enter from Gate No-2 and get down at the designated area. All vehicles can exit from Amanulla Khan Gate Road Jayamahal Road.

All road users are also requested to avoid parts of Palace Road, MV Jayaram Road, Vasanthanagara Underpass, Bellary Road, Cunningham Road, Millers Road, and Jayamahal Road including surrounding roads of Bengaluru Palace. Movement of all types of Heavy Goods Vehicles has been prohibited from morning 7:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Sunday with diversion points at Cantonment Railway station, Hebbal junction, Kaveri theatre junction, BHEL- IISc junction and Basaveshwara junction.

'Karavali Samskruti' unfolds in Bengaluru

Bengaluru witnessed 'Karavali Samskruti' (coastal Karnataka culture) at Palace Grounds. About 200 pairs of buffaloes are said to be participating in the race, along with their owners and jockeys. Organisers said they expect a footfall of six to eight lakh visitors during the event till November 26, which along with the sport, will also bring out the culture, cuisines and heritage of coastal Karnataka. Flagging off the event, CM Siddaramaiah said his government will make all efforts to fulfill the demand that Tulu be made as the second official language in Karnataka. "With this Kambala, an attempt is being made to introduce this costal folk sport to Bengaluru....I never expected such a large crowd, I'm surprised... It should be continued every year," he said. Organising committee chairperson Prakash Shetty has said that the Kannada blockbuster 'Kantara' had evoked curiosity among many about 'Tulunadu'.

City turns up to pay last respects to martyred son

Mourners, political leaders, filed past body of Capt Pranjal and paid emotional tributes

A large number of people paid their last respects to Captain MV Pranjal, who was killed during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, amid poignant scenes.

His mortal remains were flown to Bengaluru on Friday night, and later taken to his parents' home in Anekal taluk near here.

Mourners filed past the body of Capt Pranjal and paid tributes.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and Bangalore Rural MP DK Suresh were among those who paid homage to the departed soul and offered condolences to the bereaved family today.

After a wreath-laying ceremony, Pranjal was accorded a guard of honour by the Army and the state government. His mortal remains will be taken in a procession to a crematorium in Kudlu Gate for the last rites.

The 29-year-old from 63 Rashtriya Rifles, who lost his life during an exchange of fire with terrorists in the Rajouri sector on Wednesday, is survived by wife and parents.

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paid their last respects at HAL Airport, after his remains landed here last night.

Siddaramaiah, expressing grief, announced Rs 50 lakh compensation to the martyr's family.

The opposition BJP has postponed its protest against the state government over the Cabinet decision to withdraw consent for a CBI probe against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, in view of last rites of the martyred soldier today.

Son of M Venkatesh, retired Managing Director of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Pranjal did his schooling at Surathkal in Dakshina Kannada district.

After he completed his engineering and academic mentoring programme, he joined the National Defence Academy and enlisted into the Army. **-PTI**

Armed forces personnel pay tribute to Captain MV Pranjal who was killed during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri, in Bengaluru

Leaders salute soldier's supreme sacrifice

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paid tributes to Capt MV Pranjal after his mortal remains arrived at HAL Airport on Friday.
Minister KJ George, BJP leader and Bengaluru MP Tejasvi Surya, and BJP state president BY Vijayendra also paid their last respects to the fallen soldier at the airport.
Taking to 'X' Surya expressed his grief and wrote, "With a heavy heart, received mortal remains of Capt. Pranjal MV, who made the supreme sacrifice while defending the nation at Rajouri, J&K, during an encounter with terrorists. While the nation mourns the loss of her young officer and pays obeisances to his ultimate sacrifice, I pray to almighty to give strength to his family to withstand this unbearable loss." Earlier, the mortal remains of four soldiers, Captain MV Pranjal, Captain Shubham Gupta, and Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht and Paratrooper Sachin Laur were brought to Jammu, for a wreath-laying ceremony. **-ANI**

No legal aid; HC sends 2 back to trial

The High Court of Karnataka has sent two persons who had been convicted for the rape and murder of a minor girl back to the trial court because they were not provided with legal aid back then.

The High Court found that the advocate who was hired by the accused did not attend court regularly and also failed to cross-examine the witnesses prejudicing their case. In such a scenario, they should have been provided with free legal aid which was not provided by the Trial Court which on the other hand found them guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

After spending nine years in jail, they will be put on trial once again.

The two criminal appeals were filed by Pratima Devi and Mohammad Munna Alam from Bihar. One more accused, Suresh Kumar, who is the husband of Pratima Devi, was acquitted by the Trial Court.

Pratima and Suresh Kumar were tenants who lived next to the house of the victim in Bengaluru. Mohammad allegedly had an illicit relationship with Pratima Devi. She allegedly lured the minor girl to the house where Mohammad allegedly committed "aggravated" sexual assault on the victim.

When the girl raised an alarm, Pratima Devi and Mohammad throttled the girl's neck and murdered her. Her body was hidden under a cot. After Suresh Kumar returned home and found the body, fearing arrest, he and Pratima Devi locked the house and fled. The victim's parents suspecting foul play broke open the door of their neighbour two days later and found the child's body.

The case was investigated by the Mahadevapura police in 2014. The three accused were charged under various sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), Scheduled Cates and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The LXX Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge held the trial and on October 10, 2018 sentenced Pratima and Mohammad to rigorous imprisonment. **PTI**

Fake guides will be kept out of Hampi

Finally, the Vijayanagar district administration has decided to take tough action against fake guides who are tarnishing the image of UNESCO world heritage site Hampi.

Vijayanagar Deputy Commissioner MS Diwakar, "I would urge the tourists to hire only recognised guides. To keep fake guides out, we have decided to screen the existing guides. We will allow only those guides who are recognised by us and have been issued a valid identity card to enter the Hampi Virupaksha premises. I have told personnel to take action against any fake guides violating the rule and trying to sneak into the premises."

Reacting to this, Virupakash V Hampi, State general secretary of Karnataka State tourist guides Association said, "I feel that only tough measures can put an end to the fake guide menace. I hope that the recognised guides are doing a great job in unravelling the history and mystery of Hampi."

There have been instances where a few guides who were drunk were creating trouble at the temple sites.

SS RACHAYYA

After a sandalwood tree was cut by thieves near Kamal Mahal on Friday night, locals have pointed out lapses in security at Hampi

> **"We will allow only those guides who are recognised by us and have been issued a valid identity card to enter the Hampi Virupaksha premises**
>
> –MS Diwakar, Vijayanagar DC

BangaloreMirror
Hampi has a fake guide problem

BM had reported on Oct 29 about the fake guides problem in Hampi

Recently, a woman lodged a complaint with the tourism department alleging that when she was in Hampi, she was approached by a person claiming to be a guide. However, after a while, he started misbehaving and even manhandled her. She also alleged that even the tourism department office failed to help her and then a police complaint was lodged. **-Sridhar Vivan**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

IT'S TIME TO WANDER

A goose languorously moving across the shallow lake formed in a private farm after the recent rains

The picture was clicked by BM reader **P Aparajitha**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Walking dilemma: No proper footpath here

Citizens complain of damaged footpath and waste disposal system amid ongoing sidewalk renovation in Gandhinagar

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While flyovers and other mega infrastructure projects are built for vehicle users, the demand from pedestrians is quite limited. One of the basic demands from pedestrians is to have a better footpath. However, in a section of the Gandhinagar area, there is a broken footpath, which turns out to be a broken promise for pedestrians.

Shivaprasad S, a BM reader, said, "Despite the lofty aspirations to transform Bengaluru into a smart city under the smart city initiative, the execution has hit stumbling blocks, causing concerns among the public. A recent example highlights the repercussions of incomplete waste disposal during the renovation of the footpath along Kalidasa Marg road, near the Upparpet police station border."

The remnants of old concrete, stones, and mud were left unattended, impeding the smooth flow of rainwater through the culvert. The resulting collapse has not only disrupted the system but also poses a risk to public safety, he added.

Others said that the delay in disposing of construction waste has led to standing water on the road, creating a breeding ground for infectious diseases. The accumulation of rainwater, unable to flow into the culverts as intended, persists for prolonged periods, exacerbating health concerns for residents.

Rajendra Kumar, a shopkeeper, said, "This unfortunate situation highlights the need for better coordination and adherence to established systems in the smart city's development plans. The impact on public health and infrastructure necessitates swift action and a reevaluation of waste management practices to ensure the realisation of the city's smart goals. The incident serves as a wake-up call for authorities to address these challenges effectively, fostering a cleaner, safer, and more resilient urban environment for the residents of Bengaluru."

Citizens say that the delay in disposing of construction waste has led to water stagnating on road

DID YOU KNOW?

Bannerghatta National Park was founded in 1970. This national park is popular for its diverse range of wildlife. It also gives its tourists a bus ride in the areas meant for safaris and tourists. It is located in the south of Bengaluru and has hilly terrain. It has many villages nearby. It is also a corridor for elephants, as it connects BR Hills and Sathyamangalam Forest. It is looked after by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is one of the main tourist destinations for people visiting South India.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

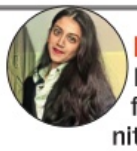
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

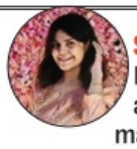
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

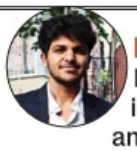
Have you ever participated in or witnessed any acts of kindness or community support in the city?



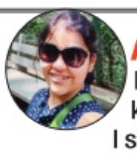
Harshala Rani, BM Reader
I am profoundly grateful to 'U and I' for providing me with the opportunity to teach. I eagerly devote about two hours of my time to these young minds. As we step onto the campus, we are met with a heartwarming display of joy.



Snehal Bandi, BM Reader
I have personally volunteered at an NGO, creating accessible study materials for visually impaired students, and taught valuable concepts and moral values at an orphanage. I've also seen people volunteering to assist those in need.



Manav Take, BM Reader
I had the privilege of witnessing a remarkable act of kindness and community support right here in Bengaluru. At the iTech workshop by the Rotaract Club of BMSCE, the classroom was transformed into a space of exploration.



Aditi Phaneesh, BM Reader
Bengaluru is a city known for its kindness. I'm a metro traveller, and I see small acts of kindness on a daily basis. Any old people, women with kids on their hips, or people with any disability are instantly ushered into seats.

Shreya Shastry, BM Reader
I once hailed an auto in Basavangudi and met an interesting rickshaw driver. He asked me if I had a few minutes to spare, and I agreed. He stopped near a circle and scattered a bag full of grains to feed the pigeons there.

Shravya Suresh, BM Reader
I've had the privilege of participating in community support in my city. One significant contribution I have made is through an organisation where I promoted period hygiene among women living in slums.

SPEAK TO US

How do you perceive the cost of living in Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

MIND, BODY & HEART

All you need to know about...

Plant-based foods

Green swap
Swapping animal-based food such as red and processed meat with plant-based foods such as nuts or legumes may help lower the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, and overall mortality, a new study has found.

Plant benefits
The study published in the journal BMC Medicine analysed the results from 37 earlier studies, and its findings highlighted the potential health benefits of incorporating more plant-based meals into the diet.

Shift for health
"Our findings indicate that a shift from animal-based (e.g., red and processed meat, eggs, dairy, poultry, butter) to plant-based (e.g., nuts, legumes, whole grains, olive oil) foods are beneficially associated with cardiometabolic health and all-cause mortality," the researchers reported.

Substitution analyses
The researchers performed a systematic literature search on MEDLINE, Embase, and Web of Science and included studies that used substitution analyses of animal-based food with plant-based foods.

This or that?
They observed a "moderate certainty of evidence" that replacing one daily egg with nuts correlated with lower cardiovascular disease mortality. Substituting butter with olive oil yielded similar results.
Switching 50 grams of processed meat with 28 grams of nuts daily was related to a decreased risk of coronary heart disease. On the other hand, replacing poultry or seafood with nuts or legumes was not a good idea, the study found.
There was only low-confidence of evidence that replacing red meat with nuts or legumes lowered the risk of coronary heart disease.

—IANS

GRATEFUL PLATE

Missing taste of Thanksgiving already? These duck recipes are sure to sort you out

HANGZHOU STYLE DUCK

INGREDIENTS
- Duck- 250gm • Garlic-20gm
- Ginger- 20gm • Dry Chilli-1gm
- Tomato Ketchup- 95gm
- Dark Soya- 40gm
- Honey-5ml
- Oil-30ml
- Black Bean-5gm
- Celery- 5gm
- Pickle Onion-30gm
- Salt-2gm • Pepper-1gm
- Sugar-1gm • Chilli paste-10gm
- Light Soya-5ml
- Dark Soya-10ml
- Vinegar-5ml
- Potato starch-5gm
- Coriander-2gm
- Fresh Red Chilli- 5gm

Prep Time: 1 hour, 45 mins **Serves** 2-3

METHOD
- Take the whole duck and clean it thoroughly under cold water
- Add a bit of grinded ginger, dry chilli, cardamom, chilli paste, salt, pepper, sugar and honey in small quantities to dress the meat surface
- Now roast the duck for 1 hour, 30 minutes and cut them into 6 pieces when done
- Now in a pre-heated pan pour in some refined oil
- Put in the pickle onion and all the other ingredients
- Toss them in the hoisin sauce together till oil releases
- Add the duck pieces and cook together
- Now pour in some luke warm water and potato starch and cook the preparation in medium to low flame
- Check if the meat has softened
- Once done, serve hot with a garnish of fresh red chilli and coriander

DUCK WITH CHILLI ORANGE SAUCE & SESAME

A unique preparation made with fresh orange slices and sesame seed, topped with red chillies, comes with a mild sweet and spicy blend; dominated with orange flavour.

INGREDIENTS
- Duck- 250gm
- Butter- 100 gm
- Ginger- 1 teaspoon
- Diced Orange (deseeded)- 250 gm
- Salt- to taste
- Fresh Orange Juice- 500 ml
- Tomato Sauce- 200 ml
- Onion- Sliced
- Red & Yellow Bell Pepper- ½ of each
- Garlic- 1 tablespoon
- Red chili paste- 4 teaspoon
- Sesame seed- ½ table spoon
- Sugar- to taste
- Refined Oil.

METHOD
- First, roast the duck and steam it well to soften the meat
- Now, in a preheated pan, pour in some refined oil till it heats up a little
- Add in diced onion, Red and Yellow Capsicum
- Once the veggies shrink a little, one by one keep adding ginger & garlic paste, Salt & sugar, Chilli paste, Tomato ketchup, fresh orange juice and sauté them to prepare the orange sauce
- Then add the cooked duck into the pan and once again stir and cook the duck till the sauce penetrates well into the meat
- Serve the duck hot and garnish it with sliced red chilies, and some sesame seeds on top.

Prep Time: 20 mins **Serves** 2-3

DUCK SPRING ROLL

Shredded roasted duck and vegetables wrapped in crispy wonton leaf, shallow fried for a crisp at first, followed by a mouth-melting juicy flesh in every bite.

INGREDIENTS
- 70gm roasted & boiled duck.
- 1 tbsp oil • 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp finely chopped ginger
- 1/2 cup sliced onions
- 1/2 cup sliced capsicum
- 1 cup thickly grated carrot
- 1 cup shredded baby corn
- 1 teaspoon chili paste
- 1 teaspoon of Light soya sauce
- 1 tsp- tomato ketchup
- Salt to taste • Pepper
- Spring roll wrappers

METHOD
- Heat oil in a pan and add the ginger and garlic. Sauté for a while
- Add onions and sauté
- Prior to this, roast the duck and steam them to soften the meat
- Once the duck is cooked, shred them into pieces
- Add the shredded vegetables, duck and sauté for about 3-4 mins
- Add soy sauce, tomato ketchup, salt, pepper and chili paste and mix well
- Keep the preparation aside
- Now, lay out the spring roll wrappers on a clean and dry surface and fill with a portion of the stuffing
- Brush the sides of the wrapper with cornstarch slurry and roll the wrapper and seal the edges completely
- Heat oil in a non stick pan and deep fry the rolls till golden brown
- Drain on absorbent paper and cut each roll diagonally. Serve hot.

Prep Time: 25 mins **Serves** 2

Chef Ram Bahadhur Budhathoki, Head Chef, Chowman

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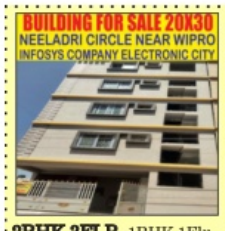

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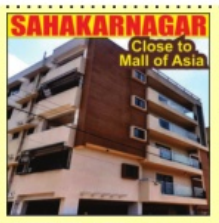

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Last days of life

Sandalwood Queen Ramya deserves appreciation for selecting a good subject to bankroll a movie through her production house AppleBox Studios and actor-cum-director Raj B Shetty also must be applauded for his sterling performance and superb direction. The locations selected for shooting of this movie are apt too.

It is the script of a film that can make hearts melt. This movie has a meaningful message for the society, especially those suffering with marital discord and those whose loved ones are terminally ill.

The movie opens with Prerana (Siri Ravikumar), a counselor at Asare, a centre for the terminally ill, busy readying herself to go to duty while her husband Sagar is busy with his phone. Aniketh (Raj B Shetty) joins Asare and refuses to sit for counseling. Prerana meets Aniketh and tries to understand why. Aniketh refuses to oblige and becomes difficult to handle. She decides to send him home but changes her decision.

Meanwhile, she comes to know about her husband's extra marital affair. Impressed by Aniketh's behaviour, she becomes closer to him. What happens to both of them is what Swathi Mutthina Male Haniye is all about.

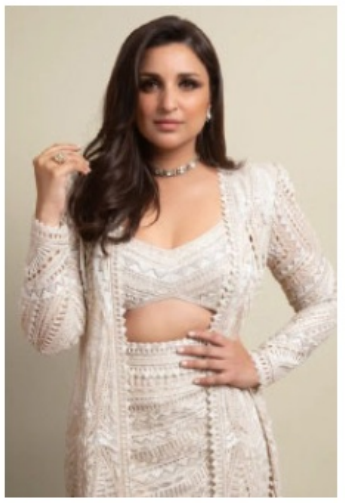
Raj, as a terminally ill person who is aware that his days are numbered, has acted well. His dialogue delivery and gestures are superb. Siri Ravikumar walks away with all honours for her sterling performance. The dialogue – I like your courage, I wish I should have it – makes audiences understand the plight of a neglected wife. Siri's acting in a scene where she returns to work without ringing the doorbell after finding a woman's footwear outside her house is subtle but says a lot.

SWATHI MUTTHINA MALE HANIYE
4.0 RATING ★★★★★
- **DIRECTOR** Raj B Shetty
- **ACTORS** Raj B Shetty, Siri Ravikumar, Balaji Manohar, Venkat Rao, Surya Vashishta, JP Tuminad
- **Duration** 101 minutes
- **Certification** U

The character played by actor Venkat Rao represents thousands of hapless senior citizens who are left alone after spending all their life savings to save their better halves from terminal ailments. Gopalakrishna Deshpande, who pleads with the counselor and the hospice staff to save his life, has acted well. Balaji Manohar and JP Tuminad provide good support. Music by Midhun Mukundan and cinematography by Praveen Shriyan are good.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Parineeti's stern message



Actor Parineeti Chopra in a stern message to fan clubs warning them of putting out her fake quotes praising other artists for their own benefit.

Parineeti took to her Instagram Stories on Saturday and wrote, "I am seeing fan clubs put out quotes in favour of their artists, using my name. These are fake. I have given no interviews/quotes about anyone, congratulating them or appreciating them. I am watching and will be reporting to you. Also - get your facts checked first! A little Googling never hurt anyone."

Parineeti has taken issue with fan clubs disseminating false remarks ascribed to her in order to promote the artists they represent.

She informed them that she would take action against the aforementioned fan clubs and asked them to get their facts checked.

Recently, the new bride in town on Saturday walked the ramp in the Lakme Fashion Week.

She turned a muse for One Infinite presented by Faabiiana and Vvani by Vani Vats.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, she was seen in 'Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue' opposite Akshay Kumar. The movie was released on October 6.

—ANI

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I, AROKIA MARY, R/a, No.S404, HM Tambourine Apts, Kanakapura Main Road, JP Nagar, 6th Phase, Bengaluru-560078. I, have changed my name to AYISHA SIDDIQUA, Vide affidavit dated 17/11/2023, Sworn before Notary V. Rajashekhara, Bangalore

I, Kiran Kumar Shankar Gowda S/o Shankare Gowda, R/at # 95, Mailanahalli, Haralahalli Post, K R Pet Taluk, Mandya District, 571426, Have Changed My Name To Gowda Kirankumar Shankar For All Purposes.

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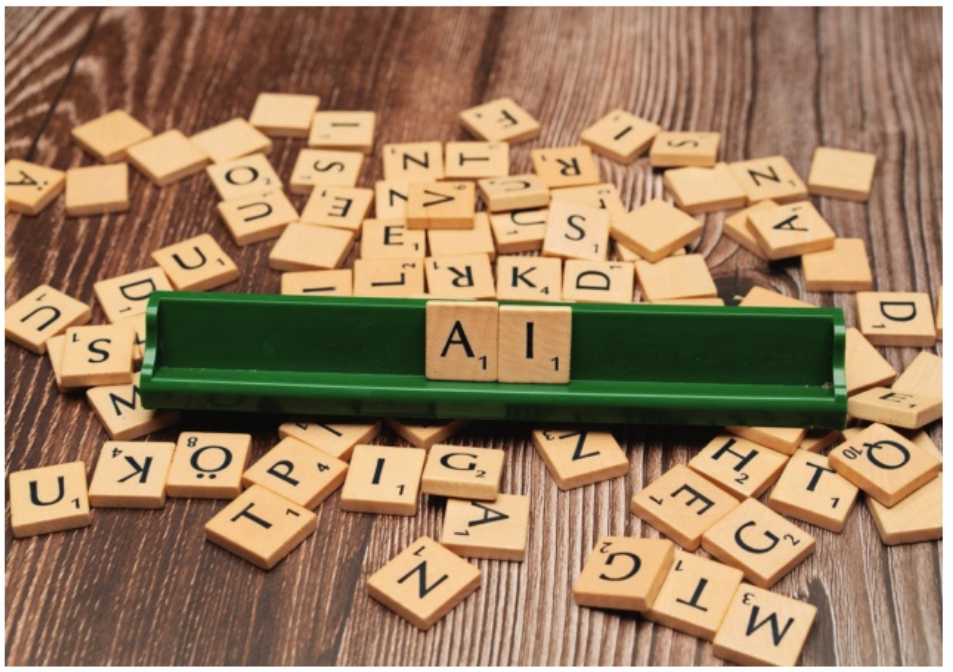
Opaque AI

Microsoft's role in OpenAI saga raises trust and antitrust concerns



Sam Altman's firing at OpenAI was steeped in just the kind of opacity that's troubling policymakers around the world about the ongoing rush to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and makes them worry if companies can be trusted to regulate themselves and their research. "I think if this technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong. And we want to be vocal about it," Altman said at a US congressional hearing in May.

"We want to work with the government to prevent that from happening." It was a call for regulation from a company that has become the face of the march towards more advanced levels of Artificial Intelligence with its ChatGPT language-model chatbot.

Since its debut a year ago on November 20, 2022, ChatGPT has set off a multitude of debates from the future of mankind in relation to Artificial Intelligence to the futility of school tests for students armed with the chatbot to need for governments' to regulate it without killing it.

Since its debut a year ago on November 20, ChatGPT has set off a multitude of debates from the future of mankind in relation to AI to the futility of school tests for students armed with chatbot to need for govts to regulate it

The OpenAI turmoil rekindled an old question: How to manage Big Tech? Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, a 49 per cent minority stakeholder in OpenAI, was able to get Altman back his job, restructure the company's bod that fired Altman with just a few phone calls, the public outcomes of which were posted on X, previously Twitter, and other media platforms this reporter may have missed.

Microsoft did not even have a seat on the board of OpenAI, not even an observer seat. But it's $10 billion investment in OpenAI and exclusive rights on its models.

"We remain committed to our partnership with OpenAI and have confidence in our product roadmap, our ability to continue to innovate with everything we announced at Microsoft Ignite, and in continuing to support our customers and partners," Nadella wrote on X, three days after Altman's firing. And that Microsoft was prepared to work with Emmett Shear, the interim CEO. Then he dropped the bomb on a delayed fuse. "We're extremely excited to share the news that Sam Altman and Greg Brockman, together with colleagues, will be joining Microsoft to lead a new advanced AI research team. We look forward to moving quickly to provide them with the resources needed for their success."

OpenAi's employees were in open revolt. More than 95% of OpenAI employees had called for Altman's return or, they had said, they were prepared to resign and, presumably, join the Altman-led project at Microsoft.

The OpenAI board was already under pressure. One of them, OpenAI chief scientist Ilya Sutskever, who had led the board's revolt against their CEO, folded and publicly acknowledged in an Ex post, that he "deeply regret[s] my participation in the board's actions". This admission came on November 20, the same day as Nadella's post.

Two days later, Altman was back at OpenAI. "I love OpenAI, and everything I've done over the past few days has been in service of keeping this team and its mission together. When I decided to join MSFT (short for Microsoft) on Sunday evening, it was clear that was the best path for me and the team. With the new board and w satya's support, I'm looking forward to returning to OpenAI, and building on our strong partnership with MSFT."

Nadella reported Altman's post with his own remarks with an unmistakable victory dance. "We are encouraged by the changes to the OpenAI board. We believe this is a first essential step on a path to more stable, well-informed, and effective governance. Sam, Greg, and I have agreed they have a key role to play along with the OAI leadership team in ensuring OAI continues to thrive and build on its mission..."

Game, Match and Set to Microsoft. The turmoil has reinforced fears of Big Tech's influence and may trigger calls for antitrust actions. **–IANS**

FEARS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APOCALYPSE

The OpenAI debacle has proved one thing: The AI industry needs to be regulated, and fast.

The six days of chaos at Sam Altman-run ChatGPT maker has revealed serious lapses in the company's self-governance, amid worries over AI as an existential risk to humanity.

As the world seeks answers from OpenAI on why they sacked Altman in the first place, reports have emerged that a secret AI project named 'Q' (pronounced Q-Star) that could threaten humanity may have been the reason behind Altman's dramatic ouster as CEO.

Several staff researchers reportedly sent the OpenAI board a letter warning that a powerful AI breakthrough could threaten humanity.

The letter and AI algorithm was a catalyst that caused the board to oust Altman, according to a Reuters report, citing sources. The previously unknown letter was one of the factors "among a longer list of grievances by the board that led to Altman's firing".

The researchers who wrote the letter did not comment, neither did OpenAI, so the mystery shrouds the top-secret AI project. The ChatGPT maker made progress on the 'Q-Star' project which could be a breakthrough in the search for superintelligence. "What I know for certain is we don't have AGI. I know with certainty there was a colossal failure of governance," David Shrier, professor of practice, AI and innovation at the Imperial College Business School in London, told The Wired.

Regulators around the world will carefully be watching what happens at OpenAI next. The failure of OpenAI's governance structure is likely to amplify calls for stronger public oversight.

In 2019, OpenAI transitioned from a non-profit to a 'capped-profit' model.

According to the company's blog post, OpenAI wanted to increase its ability to raise capital while still serving its mission, and "no pre-existing legal structure they knew of struck the right balance".

The turmoil at OpenAI will calm down as a new three-man board takes over. An independent investigation into the events around Altman's firing could strengthen Altman's position if it concludes that he did no wrong. **–IANS**

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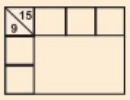

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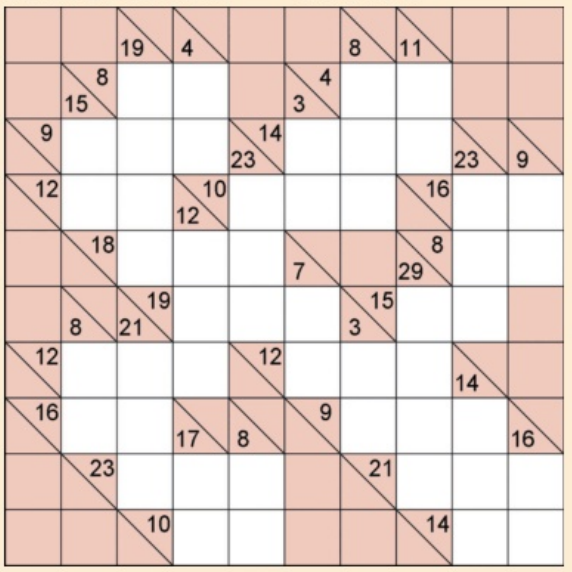

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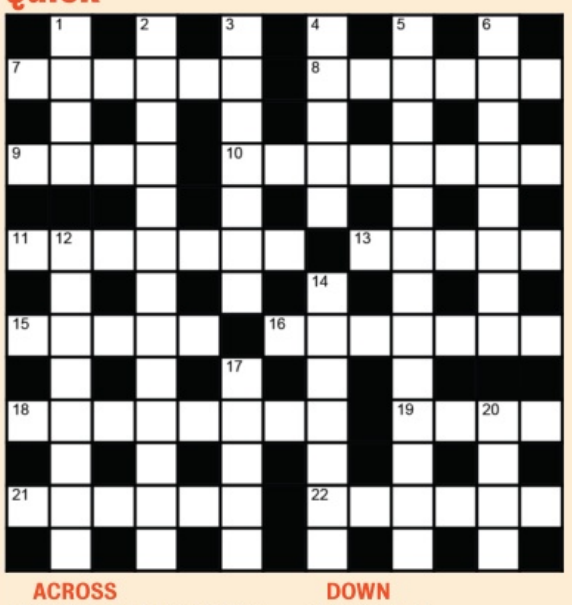


ACROSS

7 Appealed to a higher power (6)
8 Oral or spoken (6)
9 Lower part of room wall (4)
10 Pertaining to a metal that's in liquid state? (8)
11 In an ____ way : carelessly or without due preparation, in a way? (7)
13 Creature (5)
15 Employing (5)
16 Angrily (7)
18 Air is 80% this (8)
19 Cylindrical container (4)
21 Involve necessarily (6)
22 Copenhagen gardens (6)

DOWN

1 Expanse (4)
2 Person obsessed with the state of his or her health (13)
3 Unyielding (7)
4 Open to view (5)
5 Quarrelsome (13)
6 Belonging to a country (8)
12 Styles or modes of dress (8)
14 One of two metro stations in the Ulsoor area (7)
17 Spry (5)
20 Invoice (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G

NS GWNOB JWN OYM CNGWECK, SBJ YTB OEZBCG.

Linemaro

I always find you relevant

Mindchow

Why are they called stairs inside but steps outside?

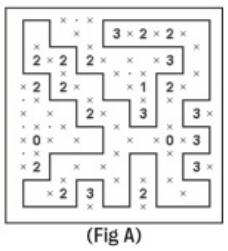
Joke of the day

I've got to sit down and work out where I stand

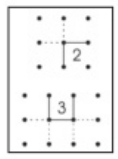
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

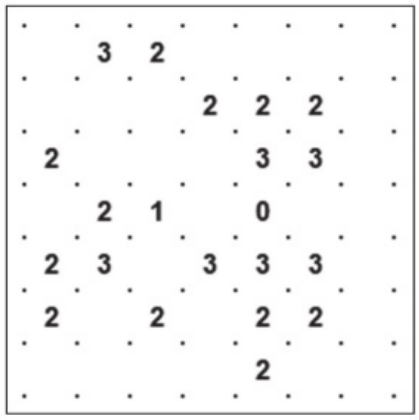


(Fig B) Not Allowed

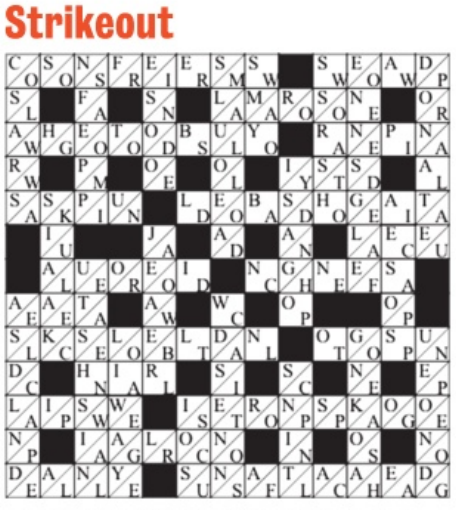
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



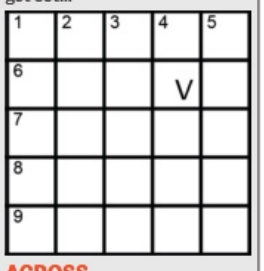
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Spilt; 6 Over P;
7 Turin; 8 Dante;
9 So god

DOWN

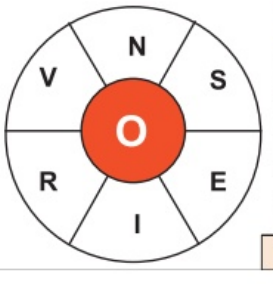
1 Grasp; 2 Nor up;
3 To lot; 4 Id I've;
5 Dents

Mensapuzzle

Start at one of the four corner letters and spiral clockwise round the perimeter, finishing at the centre letter to spell out a nine-letter word. You must provide the missing letters.

	A	
O	C	I
N	A	P

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

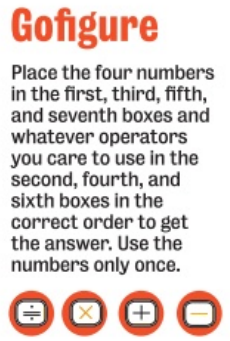
SudokuChallenge

							5	
4			1	8				
		7	6		3	9		
		6	9		8	3	2	
	5						7	
	8	3	4		7	5		
		5	3		6	1		
				1	2			6
	3							

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

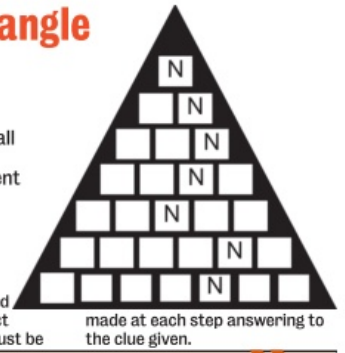
Differences: 1. Paper is longer. 2. Desk front is different. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Shirt stripes are different. 5. Nose is different. 6. Back of chair is different.

Riddler

The immoral becomes eternal. Reason turns to acts infernal. The moral number their years. Every error leads to fears. If here is where you can't abide, I can take you there to hide. What am I?

Alpha triangle

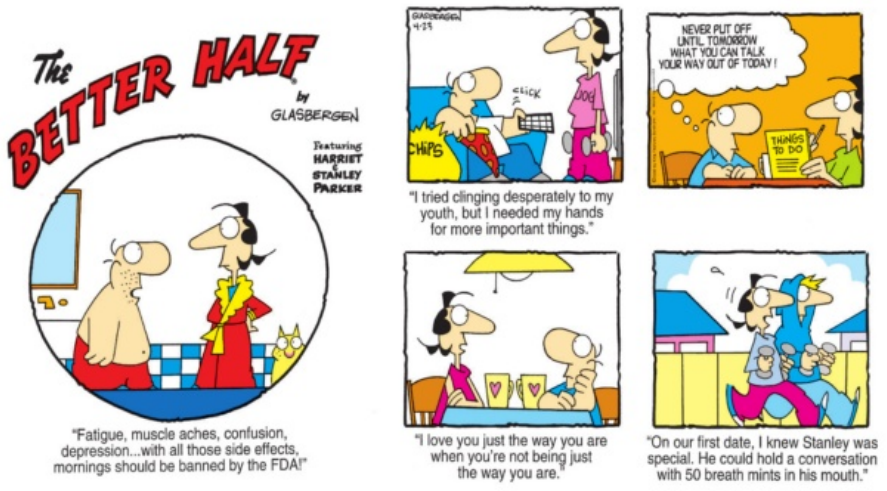
1 One of the poles
2 Not out
3 Alcoholic drink
4 Hum a tune
5 Makes a phone call
6 Rules
7 Nurse's instrument

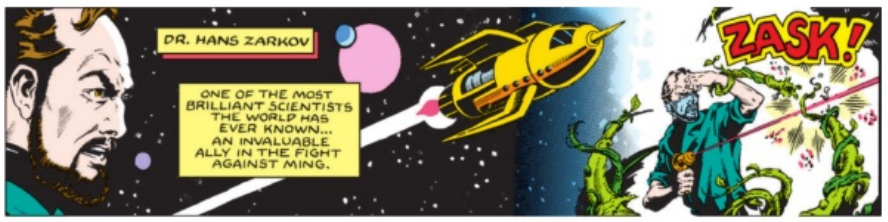


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Fatigue, muscle aches, confusion, depression...with all those side effects, mornings should be banned by the FDA!"
"I tried clinging desperately to my youth, but I needed my hands for more important things."
NEVER PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF TODAY!
THINGS TO DO
"I love you just the way you are when you're not being just the way you are."
"On our first date, I knew Stanley was special. He could hold a conversation with 50 breath mints in his mouth."


DR. HANS ZARKOV
ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN... AN INVALUABLE ALLY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MING.
ZASK!

FLASH GORDON
1-2
By JIM KEEFE
MOMENTS AFTER PLACING THE KRONTORS' CROWN ON HIS HEAD, LONAK SCREAMS IN AGONY!
GET IT OFF! IN TAO'S NAME, GET IT OFF!
I CAN'T! IT'S ATTACHING ITSELF!
FLASH!
THE BEASTS SUDDENLY CONVERGE ON LONAK, REMOVING ANY OBSTACLE IN THEIR WAY...
NOW THAT THEY HAVE LONAK, THE BEASTS ARE IGNORING US.
RONAL! WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE KRONTORS GOT WHAT THEY CAME FOR...
"...NOW THEY'RE RETURNING HOME."
FRIGIA IS UNDER SIEGE NO MORE.
BUT... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LONAK?
TO BE CONT'D~

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may begin your day with positive thinking. You may be in a winning position against your opponents and hidden enemies. Your work may be praised by your seniors, and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Students are blessed by the moon, which may show them the right path to choose good career options.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with family issues. You may explore your extra sources of income in terms of gains. You might take an interest in artefacts, movies, and glamour, which may improve your creativity. Love birds have a clear view in terms of their relationships. Students may now go ahead with their goals in terms of careers.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may have many options, which may make you confused. You may decide to visit your elders to consult them before making any important decisions. Your past karma may show you the right path to make the right decisions in terms of work and domestic life. Today, you should be careful about your parents' health.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your business plans are likely to be successful with the support of your subordinates. You may have short travels in terms of business, which will give you benefits in the near future. You may be involved in social and family get-togethers, which may increase your social network.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a good day for gains. You may make good plans to get good returns from your investments. You are likely to save money by avoiding spending on unnecessary stuff, which may boost your savings. Love birds may be busy at family functions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy with issues related to siblings and relatives. But you may expect some support at work, which may make your work run smoothly. Your network may help you complete your task successfully. You may plan to start some new ventures with the help of your siblings and network. There may be some smart gains after a little effort.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may have a dull feeling, which may affect your health, and you may not get results from your professional meetings. You may have a feeling of wasting time. From late evening on, disappointments may convert into happiness. You are advised to avoid rash driving or an adventure tour.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is a good day. In the business, we may get new clients, which will be helpful in terms of growth and profits. Singles are likely to find a good match. In domestic life, you must avoid hiding anything from your spouse; otherwise, it will create a gap in your relationship. Job seekers are likely to get a new job, and there are chances of promotions in their current job.

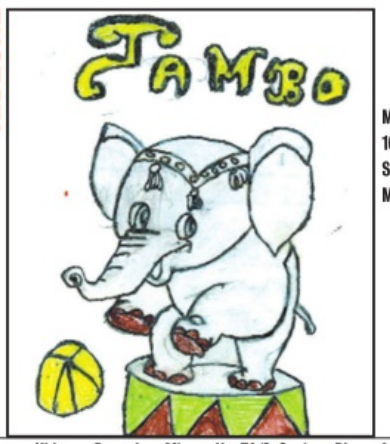
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life; there may be good understanding between you and your spouse. Natives related to metal and booking agents will do better.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are more religious; you may plan to visit some religious place to find peace of mind. You may donate some amount to a charity or spiritual place. People around you may get help and support from you in terms of financial or moral support. You may enjoy every moment with satisfaction and patience.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may have a dull feeling. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. Your focus is tested many times; you should try to avoid scattering towards your goals. So it is advised not to invest in worthless stuff. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be happy and may have mental peace. You are likely to be busy with friends and family. You may enjoy your domestic life, and bonding with the spouse is likely to increase, which may maintain domestic harmony. There may be a new partnership in the business. New innovations may help your business grow.

KIDZONE



Mallinath S, 10 Years, St. Aloysius Middle School

Parnasha Kashyap, 10 Years, Geethanjali Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
81-3(1+1+1)=
81-3-3=
3-4-3-3-1=
3-12-3-1=
3-(12+1)=
3-13

BULL'S EYE
envoi, iron, noise, nose, oven, over, rose, rosin, rove, senior, snore, sore, VERSION, visor

FAST FIVE

S	P	L	I	T
P	R	O	V	E
R	U	T	I	N
A	N	T	E	D
G	O	O	D	S

QUOTE UNCODE
Of those who say nothing, few are silent.

STRIKE OUT

E	L	L	E		S	N	A	T
P		G	L	O	O		S	N
A	P	S	E		S	T	O	P
C		N	I	L		I		S
S	K	E	L	E	T	A	L	
E	A	T		W		O		O
L	U	R	E	D		C	H	E
	U		J		D	A		L
S	K	I	N		D	E	A	D
W		O		L		I	T	S
A	G	O	O	D	B	U	Y	
L		A		N		A	R	O
C	O	N	F	I	R	M	S	

QUICK

S		C		E		Y		E
E	N	T	A	I	L		T	I
	O		I		I		I	
N		T	R	O	G	E	N	
	H		D		A		I	
U	S	I	N	G		I	R	A
A		O		T		T		N
O	F	F	H	A	N	D		B
	C		A		T		M	
D	A	D	D	O		M	E	R
E		P		A		E		G
P	R	A	Y	E	D		V	E
	H		A		O		A	

RIDDLER
T: "Immoral" becomes "Immortal". "Reason" becomes "Treason". "Moral" becomes "Mortal". "Error" becomes "Terror". The word "here" becomes "there" if you add a t.

MENSA PUZZLE
PANORAMIC

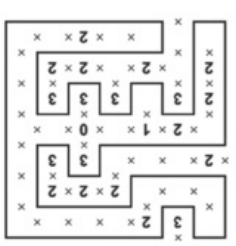
SUDOKU

3	6	8	7	2	9	4	5	1
4	9	2	1	8	5	7	6	3
5	1	7	6	4	3	9	8	2
1	7	6	9	5	8	3	2	4
9	5	4	2	3	1	6	7	8
2	8	3	4	6	7	5	1	9
8	2	5	3	9	6	1	4	7
7	4	9	5	1	2	8	3	6
6	3	1	8	7	4	2	9	5

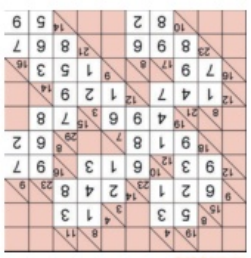
ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, In, Gin, Sing, Rings, Reigns, Syringe.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 - 4 + 3 - 5 = 1
Medium
8 - 9 + 4 + 1 = 4
Hard
3 x 4 x 1 - 5 = 7

LOOP



KAKURO



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Strike a pose

Saba's stunning new snap clicked by beau Hrithik is talk of town

Saba Azad, known for her role in 'Rocket Boys', shared a stunning photo of herself draped in a violet saree with a red blouse and statement jhumkas. The picture was captured by none other than beau Hrithik Roshan. Saba and Hrithik often exchange comments on each other's Instagram posts, and Hrithik has previously taken pictures of Saba. The internet showered Saba with compliments on her gorgeous look. In another post, Saba shared a picture from a promotional shoot, wearing a floral outfit with a top bun.

The duo celebrated Diwali together, as evident from pictures shared by Hrithik. They were joined by Hrithik's family, including his father Rakesh Roshan, mother Pinkie Roshan, uncle Rajesh Roshan, cousin Pashmina, sister Sunaina, and her daughter Suranika. Hrithik expressed Diwali wishes with the caption "Happy Diwali beautiful people."

Recently, Hrithik's cousin Pashmina celebrated her 28th birthday, and the family, including Hrithik and Saba, posed together. Saba commented, "Best night ever!!" on Hrithik's post. Hrithik and Saba reportedly started dating last year and have since been seen together at family events and vacations. They made their red carpet debut at Karan Johar's 50th birthday celebrations. On the professional front, Hrithik Roshan was last seen in "Vikram Vedha" with Saif Ali Khan and is gearing up for projects like "Fighter" with Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor, and "War 2" alongside Jr NTR.

—ETimes

The IT job

ELECTRONIC CITY

2.0 RATING ★★☆☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Chikkanna Ramakrishnaiah
- **ACTORS** Aryan Harsha, Diya Ashlesha, Rakshitha Keremane
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 124 minutes

Chikkanna Ramakrishnaiah has made an attempt to showcase working conditions and politics at some software companies, but seems like there is a long way to go if he wants to become an established director in Sandalwood. One can understand his limitations – as a director and producer – to choosing well-known actors of Sandalwood for this movie, but one or two such actors would have been a great help.

The director does manage to show the stressful work condition of software engineers and he has also kept the film peppered with sentiments and love that can appeal to the youth.

The movie opens with Guru (Aryan Harsha), who is on the way to attend an interview for a managerial post at an IT company. He meets his schoolmate Priya (Diya Ashlesha) who works at the same company. Ramya (Rakshitha Keremane), who works as a manager, tries to ensure that Guru does not get the job, but in vain. Guru helps his team members by giving them proper guidance.

Meanwhile, Priya wants to marry Guru but she is forced to cancel her decision. What happens to Guru and Ramya is what Electronic City is all about.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Aryan Harsha walks away with all honours. Aryan is cool and comfortable and has acted like an experienced actor. Among the heroines, Diya Ashlesha is better but looks stoic in most of the scenes. Rakshita Keremane provides good support. Other actors need basic training.

The drawback of the movie is its cinematography. The screenplay could have been more crisp and convincing too.

But if you want a peek into life in the IT sector, you can head to the theatres.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

No push-over, just push ups

> They said they would finish their drills with 10 knuckle pushups... so it became a ritual for me as well

National crush Vicky Kaushal, who is gearing up for the release of his film 'Sam Bahadur', revealed that he did 10 knuckle push ups with Indian Military Academy cadets as a ritual before wrapping up the shoot.

Vicky took to Instagram, where he shared a video of him doing the push-ups with the "spirited" cadets.

He captioned it: "#IndianMilitaryAcademy with the cadets there for one of the important sequences in the Film. They said they would finish their drills with 10 knuckle pushups... so it became a ritual for me as well... no matter how tired we were at the end of the shoot... "pack up" would only be called when I did those 10 knuckle pushups with them."

"Such spirited boys at the IMA!!! One of the most disciplined and inspiring places I have been to.

#VickyKaushal takes us back to the shoot of one of the key sequences of #SamBahadur at #IndianMilitaryAcademy!"

He concluded by saying: "Lauding IMA as the most disciplined and spirited places, the actor embraced the cadets' tradition of ending drills with 10 knuckle pushups."

'Sam Bahadur' is a biographical war drama film based on the life of India's first Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw. It is directed by Meghna Gulzar and also stars Fatima Sana Shaikh, Sanya Malhotra, Neeraj Kabi, Edward Sonnenblick and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub.

The film is set against the backdrop of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War, when Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw led the Indian Army to Bangladesh's liberation..

—ETimes

Proud home-owner

Ananya Panday recently penned a note thanking Gauri Khan for designing her "first home, dream home". Sharing a picture with Shah Rukh Khan's wife, Ananya had penned, "my first home .. my dream home thank you @gaurikhan no one could have understood exactly what I wanted better than you and made it so so so special for me you're the best, love you!!!"

Reacting to the post, Suhana Khan had commented, "Faves" with a whole lot of heart emojis.

Gauri Khan also congratulated Ananya on Instagram and penned, "Celebrating this special home... a landmark moment. Congratulations @ananyapanday, you've put your heart and soul into achieving this. So proud of you, lots of love and best wishes. Many more to come....." Gauri shared a picture with Ananya and her mother Bhavan, seemingly chilling on the balcony of Ananya's new home.

Ananya Panday recently made an appearance on Koffee with Karan 8 alongside Sara Ali Khan.

— ANI